Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ARA-02 /005 R

56011

DRAFTED BY: EA/PHL:DPSULLIVAN APPROVED BY: EA/PHL:BAFLECK

ARA/ECA:RELTZ (SUBS)

-----100656Z 090867 /10

R 091551Z MAR 77 FM SECSTATE WASHDC INFO AMEMBASSY MANILA 3834

UNCLAS STATE 052057

FOLLOWING IS REPEAT BRASILIA 1739, SENT SECSTATE, INFO RIO DE JANEIRO, SAO PAULO, JUBUSMC RIO DE JANEIRO 05 MAR:

QUOTE UNCLAS BRASILIA 1739

EO 11652 NA

TAGS MILI PFOR SHUM BR

SUBJECT: EMBASSY PRESS STATEMENT ON BRAZILIAN NOTE AND RELEASE

REF: BRASILIA 1737

1. FOLLOWING IS A FULL TEXT OF THE STATEMENT PREPARED BY THE EMBASSY AND AUTHORIZED BY THE DEPARTMENT ON THE BRAZILIAN NOTIFICATIO N

TO REFUSE SECURITY ASSISTANCE: BEGIN TEXT OF STATEMENT: WITH RESPECT TO THE NOTE GIVEN TO THE AMBASSADOR AND RELEASED FOR PUBLICATION BY THE FOREIGN MINISTRY THIS MORNING, THE EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA WISHES TO SET FORTH THE FOLLOWING FACTS SO THAT THE PUBLIC RECORD WILL BE COMPLETELY CLEAR:

(A) UNDER CURRENT US LEGISLATION (SECTION 502(B) OF THE FOREIGN ASSISTANCE ACT OF 1961, AS AMENDED), SIGNED INTO LAW UNCLASSIFIED

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BY PRESIDENT GERALD R. FORD ON JUNE 30, 1976, THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE IS REQUIRED TO FURNISH TO THE US CONGRESS A REPORT ON THE SITUATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN EACH OF THE APPROXIMATELY 80 COUNTRIES THAT RECEIVE SECURITY ASSISTANCE FROM THE UNITED STATES.

(B) IN KEEPING WITH THIS LAW THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE HAS PREPARED A REPORT ON BRAZIL WITH CONTRIBUTIONS FROM THE REPORTS OF THIS

EMBASSY.

(C) THIS REPORT IS ONLY ONE OF THE SEVERAL ELEMENTS THAT THE CONGRESS TAKES INTO ACCOUNT WHEN APPROPRIATING THE FUNDS FOR THE SECURITY ASSISTANCE TO BE PROVIDED TO THESE COUNTRIES.

(D) FOR FISCAL YEAR 1978, BEGINNING OCTOBER 1, 1977, THE LEVEL FOR BRAZIL PROPOSED BY THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH FOR CONGRESSIONAL CONSIDERATION WAS \$50 MILLION IN FOREIGN MILITARY SALES CREDITS, PLUS \$100 THOUSAND FOR TRAINING.

(E) SO THAT THE BRAZILIAN GOVERNMENT WOULD BE AWARE OF THIS LEGISLATION AND IS PROVISIONS, THE EMBASSY DELIVERED A COPY OF THE RELEVANT PORTIONS OF THE LAW TO THE FOREIGN MINISTRY ON OCTOBER 14, 1976. MORE RECENTLY THERE HAS BEEN CONSIDERABLE COMMENT IN THE BRAZILIAN PRESS ABOUT BOTH THE LEGISLATION AND THE REPORTS REQUIRED BY IT.

(F) THE US GOVERNMENT, ALONG WITH MANY OTHER GOVERNMENTS, DOES NOT CONSIDER CONCERN AMONG NATIONS FOR THE OBSERVANCE OF HUMAN RIGHTS, IN KEEPING WITH THE CHARTER OF THE UN, THE UN UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND OTHER SIMILAR INTERNATIONAL INSTRUMENTS, TO CONSTITUTE INTERFERENCE IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS. IT IS THE VIEW OF THE USG THAT CONCERN FOR HUMAN RIGHS TRANSCENDS NATIONAL BOUNDARIES.

(G) THE REPORT IN QUESTION, WHICH IS CURRENT AS OF DECEMBER 1976, IS NOW IN THE HANDS OF THE CONGRESS, WHICH WILL DECIDE WHETHER OR NOT TO MAKE IT PUBLIC.
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(H) AGAINST THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE CONGRESS WOULD PUBLISH THE MANY REPORTS PRESENTED TO IT BY THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE LAW, THE EMBASSY, ACTING FOR REASONS OF DIPLOMATIC COURTESY, YESTERDAY AFTERNOON DELIVERED A COPY OF THE REPORT TO THE FOREIGN MINISTRY. IT WAS ACCOMPANIED BY AN INFORMAL MEMORANDUM EXPLAINING THE CIRCUMSTANCES, ALONG THE LINES OF THE POINTS REFERRED TO ABOVE.

(I) THE REPORT AND THE INFORMAL MEMORANDUM WERERETURNED TO THE EMBASSY LAST EVENING BY THE FOREIGN MINISTRY. END TEXT OF STATEMENT. CRIMMINS UNQUOTE. VANCE

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NNN					

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X

Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am Channel Indicators: n/a

Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Concepts: MILITARY ASSISTANCE, LAW, HUMAN RIGHTS, PRESS RELEASES, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS

Control Number: n/a

Copy: SINGLE Sent Date: 09-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am Decaption Note:

Disposition Action: n/a Disposition Approved on Date: Disposition Case Number: n/a Disposition Comment:

Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am Disposition Event:

Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE052057
Document Source: Document Unique ID-00

Document Unique ID: 00 Drafter: EA/PHL:DPSULLIVAN

Enclosure: n/a Executive Order: N/A Errors: N/A

Expiration: Format: TEL

Film Number: D770082-0136

From: STATE

Handling Restrictions: n/a

Image Path:

ISecure: 1

Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770377/aaaacpre.tel

Line Count: 109 Litigation Code IDs: Litigation Codes:

Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM

Message ID: f7ccd1ba-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc Office: ORIGIN EA

Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a Previous Classification: n/a Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a Reference: 77 BRASILIA 1737

Retention: 0

Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED Review Content Flags: Review Date: 24-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am

Review Event:

Review Exemptions: n/a **Review Media Identifier:** Review Release Date: n/a Review Release Event: n/a **Review Transfer Date:** Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a

SAS ID: 3159976 Secure: OPEN Status: NATIVE

Subject: EMBASSY PRESS STATEMENT ON BRAZILIAN NOTE AND RELEASE

TAGS: MILI, PFOR, SHUM, BR, US

To: MANILA Type: TE

vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/f7ccd1ba-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc

Review Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

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